

Crack Classifier User Manual

A Guide to Crack Documentation and Assessment

Crack Classifier Application

Version 1.0

Mandaue City Infrastructure Monitoring

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1 Introduction

Crack Classifier is a web-based application designed for documenting and assessing crack conditions in infrastructure within Mandaue City. The application enables users to upload photographs of cracks, record measurements and severity classifications, and maintain a searchable, cloud-based database of all assessments.

This manual provides step-by-step guidance for using the Crack Classifier application. It covers submitting new crack records, browsing existing records, editing previously submitted data, and managing custom locations.

1.1 Purpose of the Application

The Crack Classifier application serves the following purposes:

- Document and photograph crack conditions in infrastructure across Mandaue City barangays.
- Classify crack severity using a standardized four-level scale.
- Record precise measurements (length, width, and depth) of identified cracks.
- Store all records in a cloud-based database for centralized access and long-term tracking.
- Enable review, editing, and deletion of existing records as conditions change.

1.2 Intended Users

This application is intended for infrastructure inspectors, maintenance personnel, and barangay officials responsible for monitoring and reporting structural conditions within Mandaue City.

1.3 System Requirements

To use the Crack Classifier application, users need the following:

- A modern web browser (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari).
- An active internet connection.
- A device capable of capturing or uploading photographs (smartphone, tablet, or computer with camera access).

2 Getting Started

2.1 Accessing the Application

Open a web browser and navigate to the Crack Classifier application URL provided by your administrator. The application loads directly in the browser and does not require installation.

2.2 Application Layout

Upon opening the application, users will see a header bar at the top of the screen containing:

- The application title, “Crack Classifier,” with the subtitle “Crack Documentation.”
- Two navigation tabs: **Submit** and **Records**.

The **Submit** tab is used to create new crack records. The **Records** tab is used to browse, view, edit, and delete existing records. Users switch between tabs by clicking the corresponding button in the header.

The currently active tab is highlighted with a white sliding background and blue text for clear visual indication.

3 Submitting a New Crack Record

To submit a new crack record, ensure the **Submit** tab is active. The page heading reads “Submit Crack Record” with the instruction “Upload a photo and fill in the details below.”

The submission process consists of two main sections: **Photo Upload** and **Record Details**.

3.1 Uploading a Photo

The first section of the form is the photo upload area.

3.1.1 *How to Upload*

Users may upload a photo in one of two ways:

1. **Click to upload:** Click anywhere within the upload area. A file browser dialog will open, allowing the user to select an image file from their device.
2. **Drag and drop:** Drag an image file from the computer's file explorer and drop it onto the upload area.

3.1.2 *Accepted File Formats*

The application accepts the following image formats:

- PNG
- JPG
- JPEG

The maximum file size is **10 MB**. If a file exceeds this limit, an error message will be displayed.

3.1.3 *Photo Preview and Replacement*

After uploading, a preview of the selected image is displayed in the upload area. To replace the photo, hover over the preview image. An overlay reading "Replace photo" will appear. Click the overlay to select a different image.

3.1.4 *Automatic Metadata Extraction*

When a photo is uploaded, the application automatically scans the image file for EXIF metadata (data embedded by cameras and smartphones). During scanning, a message reading “Scanning photo data...” is displayed.

If date and time metadata is found in the photo, the **Date & Time** field in the form will be automatically populated. Users can override this auto-filled value if needed.

3.2 **Filling in Record Details**

The second section of the form contains the following fields. Fields marked with a red asterisk (*) are required.

3.2.1 *Label (Required)*

Enter a short, descriptive name for the crack record. This label helps identify the record when browsing the records list.

- **Maximum length:** 100 characters.
- **Example:** “Wall crack – Building A”

If left blank, the error message “Label is required” will appear. If the label exceeds 100 characters, the message “Label must be 100 characters or fewer” will appear.

3.2.2 *Classification (Required)*

Select the severity classification of the crack from the dropdown menu. The four classification levels are:

Classification	Color	Description
Good	Green	Minimal or no visible damage. The structure is in satisfactory condition.
Fair	Yellow	Moderate damage is present. Monitoring is recommended.
Poor	Orange	Significant damage is present. Action is recommended.
Bad	Red	Severe damage is present. Urgent action is required.

Each option is displayed with a corresponding color dot for quick visual identification. If no classification is selected, the error message “Please select a classification” will appear.

3.2.3 Location / Barangay (Required)

Select the barangay where the crack was observed. The location dropdown provides a searchable list of Mandaue City barangays.

To select a location:

1. Click the location dropdown. A list of barangays will appear.
2. Optionally, type in the search field (“Search or add barangay...”) to filter the list.
3. Click the desired barangay to select it. A checkmark will appear next to the selected option.

If no location is selected, the error message “Please select a location” will appear.

For instructions on adding custom barangays, see Section 7.

3.2.4 *Date and Time (Required)*

Enter the date and time when the crack was observed or photographed. If the uploaded photo contained EXIF metadata with date information, this field will be pre-filled automatically.

To enter or change the date and time manually, click the date-time input field and use the browser's built-in date-time picker.

If left blank, the error message "Date and time is required" will appear.

3.2.5 *Description (Optional)*

Enter any additional notes or observations about the crack condition, its surrounding area, or other relevant details. This is a multi-line text field.

Placeholder text: "Describe the crack condition, size, and surrounding area. . ."

3.2.6 *Dimensions (Optional)*

Three optional numeric fields are available for recording crack dimensions:

- **Length (cm):** The length of the crack in centimeters.
- **Width (cm):** The width of the crack in centimeters.
- **Depth (cm):** The depth of the crack in centimeters.

These fields accept numeric values. If dimensions are not applicable or not measured, these fields may be left empty.

3.3 **Submitting the Record**

After completing all required fields, click the **Submit Record** button at the bottom of the form.

The submission process occurs in two stages:

1. **Step 1 of 2:** “Uploading image...” — The photo is uploaded to cloud storage.
2. **Step 2 of 2:** “Saving record...” — The record data is saved to the database.

During submission, a loading overlay is displayed and the submit button is disabled to prevent duplicate submissions.

3.3.1 Successful Submission

Upon successful submission, a green notification will appear at the top of the screen reading “Record submitted successfully!” The form will automatically reset, clearing all fields for a new entry, and the page will scroll to the top.

3.3.2 Failed Submission

If an error occurs during submission, a red notification will appear describing the issue. The form data will be preserved so the user can correct any problems and resubmit.

4 Browsing Crack Records

To view existing crack records, click the **Records** tab in the header navigation.

4.1 Records Overview

The records page displays the heading “Crack Records” along with a count of total records found (e.g., “15 records found”). If not all records are loaded, the count will also show how many are currently displayed (e.g., “showing 12”).

4.2 Record Cards

Records are displayed as a grid of cards. The grid layout is responsive:

- **Mobile devices:** 1 card per row.

- **Tablets:** 2 cards per row.
- **Desktop screens:** 3 cards per row.

Each card displays the following information:

- **Thumbnail image:** A preview of the uploaded crack photo.
- **Label:** The record's descriptive name.
- **Classification badge:** A color-coded label indicating severity.
- **Location:** The barangay where the crack was observed, indicated by a map pin icon.
- **Description preview:** The first two lines of the description (if provided).
- **Image filename:** The name of the uploaded file, indicated by an image icon.
- **Date:** The date the record was created.
- **Updated badge:** If the record has been edited, an "Updated" badge with the modification date is shown.

4.3 Loading More Records

Records are loaded in batches of 20. If more records exist beyond the current batch, a **Load More** button appears at the bottom of the records list. Click this button to load the next 20 records.

4.4 Refreshing the Records List

To reload the records list with the latest data from the database, click the **Refresh** button located in the records header. A spinning icon indicates that data is being fetched.

4.5 Viewing a Record in Detail

Click on any record card to open a full-screen detail modal. The detail modal displays:

- The full-size crack photograph.
- The record label and classification badge.
- The location (barangay).
- The date and time of observation (formatted to the user's locale).
- The image filename.
- Dimensions, if recorded, displayed as: "L: X cm / W: X cm / D: X cm."
- The full description text.

To close the detail modal, click the **X** button in the top-right corner or press the **Escape** key on the keyboard.

5 Editing a Record

To edit an existing record, first open the record's detail modal by clicking its card in the records list (see Section 4.5).

5.1 Entering Edit Mode

In the detail modal, click the **Edit** button (pencil icon). The modal will transition to edit mode, and all fields will become editable.

5.2 Editable Fields

The following fields can be modified in edit mode:

- Label
- Classification
- Location (Barangay)
- Date and Time
- Length, Width, and Depth (dimensions)
- Description

Note: The uploaded photograph cannot be changed through the edit function. To use a different photo, delete the existing record and submit a new one.

5.3 Saving Changes

After making the desired changes, click the **Save Changes** button. A loading spinner will appear while the record is being updated. Upon success, the modal will return to view mode with the updated information displayed.

Real-time validation is applied during editing. If any required field is left blank or contains invalid data, inline error messages will appear in red below the affected field.

5.4 Canceling an Edit

To discard changes and return to view mode without saving, click the **Cancel** button.

6 Deleting a Record

To delete an existing record, first open the record's detail modal by clicking its card in the records list.

6.1 Initiating Deletion

In the detail modal, click the **Delete** button (trash icon). A red confirmation box will appear with the following warning:

“Are you sure you want to delete this record? This action cannot be undone.”

6.2 Confirming Deletion

To proceed with deletion, click the red **Delete** button in the confirmation box. The button text will change to “Deleting...” while the operation is in progress. Both the record data and the associated photograph will be permanently removed from the database and cloud storage.

6.3 Canceling Deletion

To cancel and keep the record, click the **Cancel** button in the confirmation box. The modal will return to the normal detail view.

Warning: Deletion is permanent and cannot be reversed. Ensure the correct record is selected before confirming deletion.

7 Managing Custom Barangays

The application includes 27 predefined barangays for Mandaue City. Users may also add custom locations to accommodate areas not included in the default list.

7.1 Predefined Barangays

The following barangays are available by default and cannot be removed:

Barangay	Barangay	Barangay
Alang-Alang	Jagobiao	Subangdaku

Barangay	Barangay	Barangay
Bakilid	Labogon	Tabok
Banilad	Lo-oc	Tawason
Basak	Maguikay	Tingub
Cabancalan	Mantuyong	Tipolo
Cambaro	Opao	Umapad
Canduman	Pagsabungan	
Casili	Paknaan	
Casuntingan		
Centro		
Cubacub		
Guizo		
Ibabao-Estancia		

7.2 Adding a Custom Barangay

To add a custom barangay:

1. Open the location dropdown in the submission form.
2. Type the name of the new barangay in the search field (“Search or add barangay...”).
3. If the typed name does not match any existing barangay, a button labeled **Add “[name]”** will appear.
4. Click the **Add** button. The text will change to “Adding...” while the new barangay is saved.
5. Once added, the custom barangay will appear in the list with a “Custom” badge and will be automatically selected.

Custom barangays are saved to the cloud database and will be available across all future sessions.

7.3 Removing a Custom Barangay

To remove a custom barangay:

1. Open the location dropdown.
2. Locate the custom barangay (identified by the “Custom” badge).
3. Click the **X** icon next to the custom barangay name.
4. A confirmation prompt will appear: “Remove ‘[name]’?”
5. Click **Remove** to confirm, or **Cancel** to keep the barangay.

Note: Only custom (user-added) barangays can be removed. The 27 predefined barangays are permanent and cannot be deleted.

8 Notifications and Feedback

The application provides visual feedback to keep users informed of the status of their actions.

8.1 Toast Notifications

Toast notifications appear at the top of the screen to indicate the result of an action. Each notification automatically disappears after 5 seconds, or it can be dismissed early by clicking the close button.

There are three types of toast notifications:

Type	Color	Meaning
Success	Green	The action completed successfully (e.g., record submitted, record updated).
Error	Red	An error occurred (e.g., upload failed, network issue).
Information	Blue	A general informational message.

8.2 Loading Indicators

Several loading indicators are used throughout the application:

- **Submission overlay:** A full-screen overlay with step indicators (“Step 1 of 2” and “Step 2 of 2”) during record submission.
- **Skeleton cards:** Placeholder card shapes displayed while records are loading.
- **Spinner icons:** Rotating icons on buttons during save, delete, or refresh operations.
- **EXIF scanning message:** “Scanning photo data...” displayed during photo metadata extraction.

8.3 Validation Errors

When a required field is missing or invalid, an inline error message appears in red directly below the affected field. The field border also changes to red to draw attention. The following validation messages may appear:

- “Please upload an image”
- “Label is required”

- “Label must be 100 characters or fewer”
- “Please select a classification”
- “Please select a location”
- “Date and time is required”

9 Classification Guide

Consistent classification is essential for meaningful infrastructure monitoring. The following guidelines describe each severity level to help users select the appropriate classification.

9.1 Good (Green)

The “Good” classification indicates that the structure is in satisfactory condition with minimal or no visible cracking. Minor hairline cracks that do not affect structural integrity may be present. No immediate action is required. Routine monitoring is sufficient.

9.2 Fair (Yellow)

The “Fair” classification indicates moderate cracking that warrants attention. Cracks may be visible and measurable but do not pose an immediate risk. Regular monitoring is recommended to track whether the condition worsens over time.

9.3 Poor (Orange)

The “Poor” classification indicates significant cracking that may affect the functionality or safety of the structure. Cracks are clearly visible, may be wide or deep, and could indicate underlying structural issues. Maintenance or repair action is recommended.

9.4 Bad (Red)

The “Bad” classification indicates severe cracking that requires urgent attention. Cracks are extensive, wide, deep, or show signs of active deterioration. The structure may pose a safety risk. Immediate action, such as professional structural assessment or emergency repair, is required.

10 Tips and Best Practices

The following recommendations help users produce high-quality, consistent crack records.

10.1 Photography Tips

- Take photos in good lighting conditions to ensure crack details are clearly visible.
- Include a reference object (such as a ruler or coin) in the photograph for scale, when possible.
- Capture both close-up and wide-angle photos to show the crack in context.
- Ensure the camera lens is clean and the image is in focus before capturing.
- Enable location and date-time tagging on the device camera to automatically populate record fields through EXIF metadata.

10.2 Record Keeping Tips

- Use consistent, descriptive labels that identify both the location and feature (e.g., “East wall crack – School Building 3”).
- Always record dimensions when a measuring tool is available, as this data supports trend analysis.
- Include relevant context in the description field, such as weather conditions, nearby construction activity, or previous repair history.

- Classify cracks consistently by referring to the Classification Guide (Section 9) when uncertain.
- Periodically revisit and update records if conditions change, using the edit function rather than creating duplicate entries.

11 Troubleshooting

11.1 The Image Fails to Upload

- Verify that the image file is in PNG, JPG, or JPEG format.
- Ensure the file size does not exceed 10 MB. If necessary, reduce the image resolution or compress the file before uploading.
- Check the internet connection and try again.

11.2 The Date and Time Field Is Not Auto-Filled

- Not all image files contain EXIF metadata. Photos taken with certain applications or edited images may have metadata stripped.
- Enter the date and time manually using the date-time picker.

11.3 Records Are Not Loading

- Click the **Refresh** button to reload records from the database.
- Verify that the internet connection is active and stable.
- If the issue persists, try clearing the browser cache or using a different browser.

11.4 Form Validation Errors Appear

- Review all fields marked with a red border.
- Read the error message below each field and provide the required information.
- Ensure the label does not exceed 100 characters.

11.5 A Record Cannot Be Edited or Deleted

- Ensure the internet connection is active.
- If the operation fails, close the modal and try again.
- If errors persist, contact the system administrator.

12 Keyboard Navigation and Accessibility

The Crack Classifier application supports keyboard navigation and accessibility features:

- **Tab key:** Move focus between interactive elements (buttons, form fields, links).
- **Enter or Space:** Activate the currently focused button or card.
- **Escape:** Close open modals or dropdown menus.
- All interactive elements have a minimum touch target size of 44 pixels for ease of use on touch devices.
- Classification badges use both color and text labels to ensure information is accessible to users with color vision deficiencies.

13 Glossary

- Barangay** The smallest administrative division in the Philippines. In this application, it refers to the barangays of Mandaue City where crack assessments are conducted.
- Classification** A severity rating assigned to a crack, indicating the urgency of action required. The four levels are Good, Fair, Poor, and Bad.
- Cloud Storage** A remote data storage system accessed over the internet. The application stores photographs and records in cloud storage for centralized access.
- EXIF Metadata** Exchangeable Image File Format metadata embedded in photograph files by cameras and smartphones. This data may include the date, time, and camera settings used when the photo was taken.
- Modal** A dialog window that appears on top of the main application content. Used in this application for viewing, editing, and deleting record details.
- Toast Notification** A brief message that appears temporarily on the screen to provide feedback about the result of an action.